ary was given in accordance with the provisions of MP lottery (Niyantran Tatha Kar) Adhiniyam, 1973.

US offer of housing aid to India

@763. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US had offered 35 million as housing aid to India recently; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC) has been authorised to borrow an amount of $ 35 million from the US Capital Market under the US Housing Guarantee Programme. This amount is in addition to $ 90 million borrowed by HDFC under this programme in the past. An agreement in this regard has been entered into by HDFC with the US Agency for International Development. As in the past the amount of $ 35 million will be utilised by HDFC for its low income shelter activities.

Establishment of an Inter-State Council

764. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Chief Ministers have suggested to the Central Government for the constitution of an inter-State Council under Article 263 of the Constitution;

(b) whether the Central Government have accepted this recommendation; and

(c) if so, by when the proposed inter-State Council is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations have also made recommendations for setting up of an inter-State Council under Article 263 of the Constitution. Printed copies of the report of Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations have just become available. They have been sent to Central Ministries and State Governments. Copies have also been sent to Hon'ble Members of Parliament. Government will take final view after the views of State Governments, Members of Parliament and others concerned are available.

Opening of branches of banks in U.P.

765. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of branches of nationalised and other banks opened in U.P. till December 31, 1987;

(b) what was the number of branches other than nationalised banks in U.P. till December 31, 1987;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to open branches of these two categories of banks during the year 1988-89 in U.P; and

(d) if so, what are the district-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as at the end of September, 1987 (latest available), 7544 branches of commercial banks were functioning in

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@Previously Unstarred Question 470 transferred from the 26th February, 1988.